McKeithen Rules Out Novel's 'Guest Shot'

Louisiana Gov. John McKeithen has termed "ridiculous" a request by a member of the Louisiana legislature to have Gordon Novel testify before the legislature about an alleged plot to assassinate President Kennedy.

Novel's Columbus attorney, Jerry Weiner, said he was contacted by a Louisiana legislator while in Fayetteville, N.C. last week.

WEINER OFFERED to return Novel to New Orleans to testify if he were assured immunity from arrest. The governor refused.

"If they would drop all the fictitious charges, I would return Gordon to New Orleans immediately to allow him to testify what he knows about the Garrison conspiracy, because I feel he knows nothing about a plot to assassinate President Kennedy," Weiner said.

WEINER CONTINUED, "It seems very obvious to me that by the joint resolution passed by the Louisiana legislature asking Gov. James Rhodes to expedite extradition of Novel, it becomes more apparent the charges against Novel are trumped up. All they are really interested in is having him (Novel) testify before the grand jury in Garrison's probe."

Weiner said, "Louisiana authorities won't grant Novel immunity if he returns to testify because he knows too much about Garrison and nothing about a plot to assassinate President Kennedy.

Meanwhile, Novel remains free on bond and is staying in Columbus awaiting further developments.